

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. For purposes of expedition, claims 1 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 have been allowed without the necessity of amendments. The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 2-6 and 8-12 is noted with appreciation. Claims 13-20 have been newly added in accordance with current Office policy, in order to place all claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Agazzi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,889,823 for reasons stated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 7). While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment of Agazzi '823, claims 1 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of expedited allowance of claims 2-6 and 8-12 along with newly added claims 13-20.

Claims 13-20 have been newly added to alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention while capturing the allowable subject matter pertaining to the "decoder using a path memory having a length which is shorter than a length of an error detection block [used by an error detector]" as indicated by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 7). For example, base apparatus claim 13 further defines that "the decoder produces the n candidates using a path memory having a length which is shorter than a length of each of the error detection blocks". Likewise, method claim 18 further defines that "the n candidates are produced using a path memory having a length which is shorter than a length of each of the error detection blocks." As a result, claims 13-20 are also believed to be allowable and

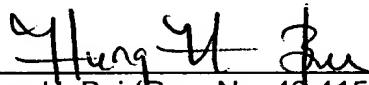
should be placed in condition for allowance along with claims 2-6 and 8-12. No fee is incurred by the addition of claims 13-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims 2-6 and 8-20 are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.36707CX1), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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